

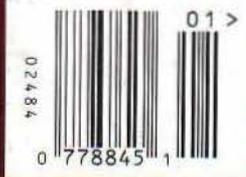
OMNI

JANUARY 1995

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO AN ALIEN?

OMNI GIVES YOU THE
CHANCE TO DESIGN A MESSAGE FOR
EXTRATERRESTRIALS

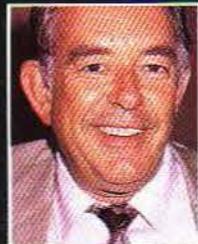
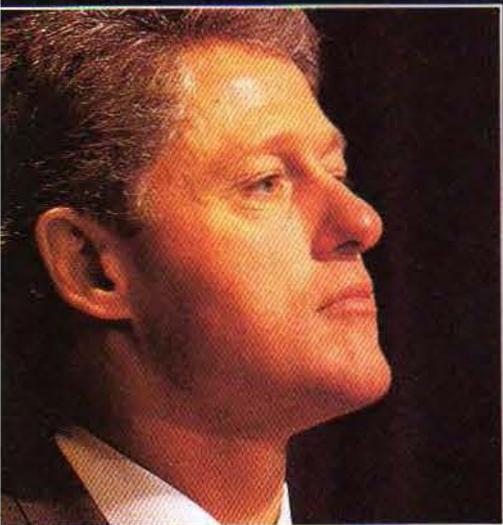
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ARTICLE BY
ERIN MURPHY

OMNI
ASKED INFLUENTIAL
INDIVIDUALS,
FROM PRESIDENT
CLINTON
TO DAVE BARRY,
ONE OF THE
MOST IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS
OF OUR TIME . . .

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO AN ALIEN?



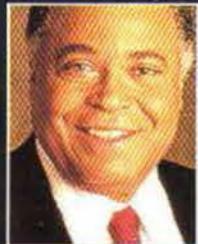
"Welcome—we hope you find us peaceful, too. What took you so long? We always believed you were out there! Would you like some champagne and caviar to celebrate your arrival? And did you see E.T.?"

—Robin Leach
Host,
Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous



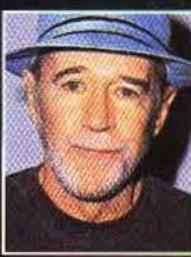
"I don't mean to be too sensible or realistic but I doubt I would be able to get anyplace near the peaceful extraterrestrials who visited Earth. They would immediately be snapped up by Hard Copy, Prime Time, or 20/20..."

—Helen Gurley Brown, Editor,
Cosmopolitan



"Get out! Go back! Save yourselves! You don't know what you're getting into. Prolonged contact with our species can only degrade your present standards, whatever they are."

—George Carlin,
Comedian



"Don't take this wrong, esteemed visitors, but your decidedly extraterrestrial appearance—coupled with your magnificent vehicle—have given me an irresistible idea: Could you possibly stay around long enough to do a couple of tourism-promotion commercials for us?"

—Pedro Rosselló
Governor,
Puerto Rico

WHAT WOULD SOME OF THESE PEOPLE SAY TO A VISITING ALIEN? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

The alien spacecraft settles noiselessly to the ground. Having been alerted by radio signals several weeks before of the extraterrestrials' peaceful diplomatic mission to Earth, world leaders stand ready to welcome the visitors. As the aliens emerge, President Clinton steps forward on behalf of his peers to greet them. He extends his hand and says...

Well, your guess is as good as ours on that count.

Omni asked Clinton recently what he would say to such an unprecedented delegation. He never responded. Neither did First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, White House senior adviser George Stephanopoulos, or the members of the cabinet. Health-care reform, the crime bill, and not invading Haiti *do* make for a busy schedule, but couldn't they have found just a couple of minutes to ponder such an intriguing scenario, particularly in an

era when more people than ever before believe that we are not alone in the universe? Or, for the conspiracy-minded, do they have something to hide?

We posed our question to every member of Congress, too, and we're glad to report that one intrepid senator from Tennessee sent us a delightful and insightful answer, welcoming our fictional visitors as only a denizen of Capitol Hill could. We canvassed staffers in virtually every branch of the federal government as well, and the three responses prove that while humor may be rare indeed in the government, it's not altogether extinct.

We didn't restrict our survey to the U.S. government. We asked world leaders, governors of all 50 states and the U.S. territories, mayors of major U.S. cities, and influential figures in the arts, science, the media, and other fields. Four governors and one mayor

sent us thoughtful responses, with the wily governor of Puerto Rico concocting a truly stellar ad campaign for his island's tourism industry.

We heard from three Pulitzer Prize-winners: Playwright Arthur Miller delivered a cautionary message to would-be visitors, humorist Dave Barry has a pressing question of his own, and *Bloom County* and *Outland* cartoonist Berkeley Breathed relayed his version of *Opus the Penguin's* close encounter of the third kind.

Cosmopolitan editor Helen Gurley Brown reminded us in her response that traveling hundreds of light-years must be terribly draining. Not to worry, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* host Robin Leach and author Harlan Ellison have figured out the perfect refreshments to offer peckish extraterrestrials.

Those are just a few of the fascinating responses we received.

Actually, some of the notes from our survey subjects telling us why they couldn't answer our letter were even more entertaining. James Earl Jones, who gave voice to the most imposing fictional alien around, Darth Vader, told us via his publicist that he's "not comfortable with this kind of article and does not feel he has anything to say in this context." Maryland governor William Donald Schaefer "prefers not to comment on possible extraterrestrial beings visiting Earth." David Letterman, according to his executive assistant, is "currently putting all of his energies into making the show a complete success." We were hoping that Dave would deliver one of his trademark Top Ten lists, but since he didn't come through, we went ahead and made up our own.

Now we'd like to hear from *Omni's* readers. What would you say to a peaceful alien delegation to Earth?

"Every day, radio telescopes around the world listen for signals emanating from civilizations outside our solar system," read the letter *Omni* sent out last summer. "What would happen if they picked up those long-awaited signals? What would happen if, when translated, those signals said, 'We are peaceful, and we're dropping by for a visit?'"

"What would you say to those visitors when they landed?"

Send your greeting, along with your name, city, and state, to: Readers' First Contact, *Omni*, 324 West Wendover Avenue, Suite 205, Greensboro, North Carolina 27408. Or you may E-mail your response to omnireply@aol.com. All responses must be received by February 28. We'll print the best in an upcoming issue.

Joseph Duffey
Director, U.S. Information Agency

I would be torn, as many might be, between the impulse to be on so serious and the impulse to be very, very silly. In any case, I submit to you two greetings, one for each impulse:

"At last! An impartial jury for the O. J. Simpson trial."

"Welcome, strangers. Were you lonely, too?"

Jane Alexander
Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

I would say, "Let me show you what it means to be human." And then I would take them to the theater, the symphony hall, the opera house, the movies, the museums. I would show them our great architecture and design, read poems, tell stories to them, take them to see the paintings of

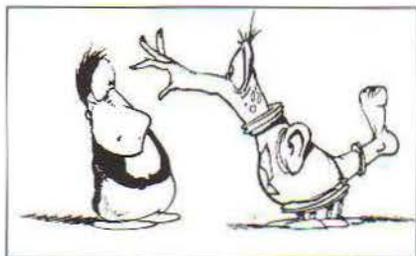
da Vinci, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Picasso, to a Greek tragedy or a comedy by Shakespeare, to hear Louis Armstrong, Mozart, and *Oklahoma!* I would show them the grace of dancers, the elegance of a bow passed across the violin's strings, and the profundity of a child drawing a picture of her mother. And then, after a crash course in our culture, when they gain insight into our imaginative life, our truest expressions of our humanity, I would ask them: "What is art where you live?" And I would hope to be swept up by their story. And I would hope that we could go on telling each other our stories long after they had intended to fly away.

Leonard Nimoy
Actor and director

Due to language barriers and other sociological considerations, it is highly unlikely that we will have any success with verbal communications. I have therefore handed the assignment to my friend, Spock, who is highly skilled in nonverbal diplomacy. I have great trust that he will handle matters successfully.

Berkeley Breathed
Cartoonist, Bloom County, Outland

Priorities would have to be decided, of course. Naturally, official victim status would need to be established, a grievance group founded, and letterheads designed. A suitable term for their minority would need to be determined even before their feet, or tentacles, or ambulatory hair follicles reached the ground from their craft. For instance, "alien of color" or "non-



Outland's Opus the Penguin compares snouts with an extraterrestrial.

color" if pigment-challenged. The *Los Angeles Times* would have to be informed of these terms and their stylebook appropriately changed.

At that point we could move forward to nailing down a merchandising deal. Anything else would be small talk.

Pedro Rosselló
Governor, Puerto Rico

Friendly star-travelers arrive. How do I greet them?

All right. Let's see.

Well, I guess I could do worse than to give them our standard treatment . . .

"Welcome to Puerto Rico, the United States' Island of Enchantment in the Caribbean Sea . . . and—since the honor seems to have fallen to me—on behalf of all God's creatures on *this* planet, welcome to Earth."

Assuming they understood that much in either Spanish or English, I might then be inspired to add . . .

"Don't take this wrong, esteemed visitors, but your decidedly extraterrestrial appearance—coupled with your magnificent vehicle—have given me an irresistible idea: Could you

possibly stay around long enough to do a couple of tourism-promotion commercials for us?"

What an opportunity! I can see it now:

for a certifiably
OUT OF THIS WORLD
Vacation Experience

sail, fly or warp-speed yourself to the Cosmic Continent of Puerto Rico!
"Great folks. Our favorite Earthlings."

—The Alpha Centauri Six

Obviously disposed to humor the homeboys, our guests readily assent. Then, after I scramble my troops via cellular phone (trying to assemble a camera crew at 3:00 in the morning), we engage in some small talk while waiting to shoot the immortal endorsement spots. Sure enough, I ascertain that our sunny soil has been selected as Landing Site One because the first Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) signals they received were transmitted from the world-famous radio telescope situated in the mountains above Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

What a deal! Are we on the map, or *what?* Is our admission as America's 51st state a cinch, or *what?* Am I as good as re-elected, or *what?*

What, what, what? Alas, the alarm clock rang and I woke up. But it sure was fun while it lasted.

Arno Penzias
Vice President of Research, AT&T Bell Labs

Personally, I'd like to make sure that both sides got a lot of preparatory

TOP TEN THINGS OMNI THINKS DAVID LETTERMAN WOULD SAY IF AN ALIEN DELEGATION VISITED EARTH

10. Want tickets to *Miss Saigon*?

9. And now, a new segment on the show: "Stupid Alien Tricks!"

8. From our new home office on the planet . . .

7. Hey Mujibur and

Sirajul, have we got a great trip for you this year! Exotic locations, interesting, um, life-forms . . .

6. Those aliens have only been here two days, and already they've signed a movie deal and dated Madonna.



5. So how's Elvis doing these days?

4. Is it true that the face on Mars is really an uncanny likeness of Michael Jackson?

3. You know, I saw *E.T.*, and you guys are *much* taller in person.

2. The world leaders gave the aliens all kinds of fabulous, expensive gifts, and it turns out all they really wanted were some T-shirts that said, "My friends visited Earth, and all I got was this lousy T-shirt!"

1. Buttafuoco!

material before the folks in question actually set flipper on the Earth. Given their evident technological superiority, we would probably have to take their peaceful intentions at face value and help them get as much data about us as they would care to have. Hopefully, that would give them enough insight to avoid triggering a social calamity when one of them gets on a talk show, or meets an overly ambitious politician.

Assuming then, that I could leave such practical cares aside, I'd tell them about our attempts to find the meaning of life. Like us, they probably know more than they can prove. Perhaps we can find some common ground in our contemplation of the universe we both inhabit. I'd sure like to find out.

Dave Barry
Humorist

"Do you guys have cable?"

Paul Bohannon
Anthropologist and writer

What would I say to an "extra-terrestrial delegation" visiting Earth?

It seems to me that it makes little difference what we say. Far more important is that we listen and pay attention

to what we hear. The most important single factor would be overcoming our fears. Human nature developed evolutionarily in a situation that made it wise for us to distrust strangers. First contact between Columbus and the Caribbean natives began on a friendly note—but both were soon overcome by fear; the situation deteriorated fast, and Columbus kidnapped several of them. The Pilgrims were greeted in English when they landed—a local Indian had spent twenty years as a slave in England, recognized them, and could talk to them. Unfortunately we have no record of what either of them said. Cortes had a clumsy system of interpretation (from Aztec to Mayan via his Indian mistress and from Mayan to Spanish via a Spaniard he had "rescued" after some years among the Maya, including a Mayan wife).

The major question: Who is going to be the interpreter? Do we trust the interpreter? How do we deal with our own terror that these extraterrestrials have come to destroy us? How do we keep from mobbing or killing or enslaving them?

The problem is with ourselves at least as much as with the aliens, no matter what problems they present. We have to be sure we understand what, if any, problems they do in fact present.

What we hear from inside ourselves—our own fears—is of far greater moment than what they hear from us (and, without that interpreter, wouldn't understand in any case). Only then can we talk to them!

Bruce Campbell
Actor, *The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.*, *Evil Dead*

If friendly aliens happened upon our planet, my message to them would be very simple: "What took you so long?!"

Kirk Fordice
Governor, *Mississippi*

"Welcome to the State of Mississippi, one of fifty United States of America, on a planet known as Earth, third planet from the sun, located in this beautiful outer fringe of the Milky Way. We greet you in peace.

We welcome you in the same adventurous spirit that led you to break away from your home planets—if indeed you come from planets—for we have a history of courageous adventure all our own. Our country was discovered by a man who bravely went against conventional wisdom that the world was flat in order to found a New World—America. Brave souls from all continents of Earth left the only homes

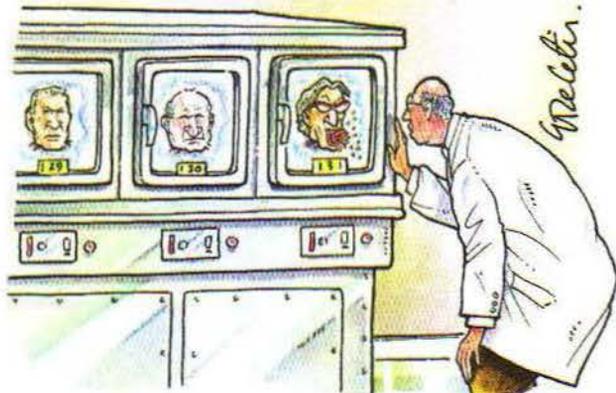
G R E A T M O M E N T S I N

SCIENCE

May 7, 1963—Pintail Falls, Missouri:
It wasn't until 2 years after his alleged abduction by aliens that Charlene suspected that portions of her husband's brain had indeed been removed by the extraterrestrials.



Although they hadn't spoken in years, it suddenly dawned on chief cryonics technician Walt P. that the Jane Doe in 131 was in actuality his first wife, Eunice Marie.



SATIRE BY ERIC JAY DECETIS

they had ever known to come to this New World in search of freedom from oppression of all kinds:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.—Declaration of Independence.

We welcome you also in the names of the brave men and women of Earth's space programs, who gave enormously of their talents and lives to reach the moon and beyond. As you pass our only natural satellite, please note the American flag symbolizing the "giant leap" of faith, resources, and determination we made in achieving this victory over the cold void of space. I deeply regret to say that it has been almost a quarter of a century since we have ventured so far out again. This is attributable to the shortsightedness of many of our past and present elected leaders. It is my sincere hope that this, too, will pass and that, once again, we will take to the stars in quest of knowledge and excellence—and the many benefits that obtaining such knowledge bestows on all humankind.

We commend your obvious technological achievements from which we

hope to learn. We invite you to sample the great literature, artwork of all kinds, pinnacles of philosophical and religious thought, and marvelous botany and wildlife comprising our planet and history. We are a world and a species of enormous potential. If you come to evaluate us, judge us on our successes as well as our failures. While we have not always made the best use of our potential, we are a species of much courage, capable of great understanding, conviction, and achievement."

*Harlan Mathews
U.S. Senator, Tennessee*

I would welcome extraterrestrial visitors to Washington, DC, by telling them I thought I'd landed on a different planet myself when I came here two and a half years ago. If they'd arrived during some days of the 103rd Congress, I'd have asked for a lift back to Tennessee. They'd probably be dropping Elvis at Graceland, anyhow, and my native Nashville is on the way.

My first words would be directed to my fellow senators. I'd say that if extraterrestrials can traverse a galaxy to reach Capitol Hill, Republicans and Democrats should be able to cross a carpet to reach a compromise.

1994 was an election year, so ex-

traterrestrials might be mistaken for newly arriving senators and congressmen—many of whom already are suspected of being from another planet. Of course, the extraterrestrials probably spent less to get here, and they arrived by spaceship, whereas politicians usually reach Washington by telling voters what an awful place it is.

Most of all, I would welcome our new friends with a particular hope: that the people of our worlds—not the governments or ambassadors but the everyday folks who constitute the life of worlds—will share wondrous possibilities. I would assure them we are not perfect nor is our Earth ideal. But I also would say there is something in humanity that tries to rise above our shortcomings. For that, we are worth knowing. I would add my hope that the meeting of our worlds will make us both better than we are alone.

*Douglas Rushkoff
Author, Cyberia: Life in the Trenches of Hyperspace*

My response may come off as flip at first, but it really does encapsulate what I'd say if they came: "Please pardon our appearance while we remodel."

*Tom Servo
Urbane robot co-host of Mystery Science Theater 3000*

Okay, first off, let's not make the classic and erroneous assumption that anybody who's able to hurl a can a few dozen light-years is automatically smarter than us. I mean, sure, it's a momentous occasion and all, but we don't have to fall all over ourselves to show them how friggin' great they are, do we?

I think you should let me handle this. First, I'd open with a joke. Let's assume that if they're so damn smart to come here in the first place, they'd know a little of the local tongue. If the aliens had butts, I might try the classic, "Can I touch your butt?" That'd catch 'em off guard; it always does. If they understood this risky yet sensitive greeting, they might immediately sense our strength and vulnerability, the essentially dualistic nature of the earthbound, eternally struggling for balance and equanimity, grasping for the serene supernal, yet mired in the physical plane, the poignant, ironic, fragile state of the world community. Then perchance they might offer us their butts to touch, and a new age for humankind would open, the childhood endeth, the future made manifest, a communion transcending, beyond time and space.

Then again they might hit me and go right back where they came from, so I probably wouldn't open with, "Can I



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ALIEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

touch your butt?" Probably don't have butts anyway, poor misshapen geeks . . .

I'm sorry, what was the question again?

Walter J. Hickel
Governor, Alaska

In 1936, I graduated from high school in Claflin, Kansas. I remember our teacher telling our graduating class that within our lifetime, man would walk on the moon. Now Claflin, Kansas, which is populated by German Catholics, was a very religious community, and any talk of man going to the moon—God's moon—was not warmly received. But I could picture it in my mind. I saw it as clear as a bell, and knew it would happen.

Thirty years later, as Secretary of the Interior, I stood at Cape Kennedy and watched as *Apollo 11* lifted off, destined for the moon.

Since that time, I have been privileged to sit on the National Space Board, where the focus of our mission was to design the first manned colony on the moon.

I have always believed that mankind should stop warring and, instead, channel our energies into pioneering projects that serve the progress of civilization. Whether that civilization is within a region, or across international boundaries, or interplanetary, is not what's important.

My message to such a delegation of extraterrestrials would be: "We welcome you in peace. We have much to learn, and much to teach."

Arthur Miller
Playwright

"Go back! Go back! You can get killed here!"

Edward G. Rendell
Mayor, Philadelphia

After a quick hello, I'd ask them if they had a cure for AIDS, unemployment, crime, drugs, hopelessness, and the breakdown of the family.

Hope springs eternal!

Steve Allen
Writer and comedian

To Our Visitors:

We have translated the key part of your recent message as, "We are peaceful, and we're dropping by for a visit."

If ours were a largely rational universe, your statement could be taken at face value. But our own judgment, on Planet Earth, must inevitably be

conditioned by long centuries of experience, and it has been our finding that such protestations, when made by Earthlings, have often been lies. If you are indeed peaceful you are unlikely to consider us warlike. This is not because of any innate decency on our part but rather because we fear you, and this largely because we know practically nothing about you.

We assume that because you have managed to reach our part of space, you far exceed our own competence in matters scientific. This, in turn, suggests that your intelligence is superior to our own. Unfortunately, there has been no necessary connection, at least on our planet, between intelligence and virtue, so as regards your either short-term or ultimate intentions, we can do little more, for the present, than hope for the best. But I must issue a warning, and it is one that I hope you will take seriously. In saying this I intend no threat; I do not warn against acting on such aggressive tendencies as you might harbor but rather of our own long habituation to the most bloodthirsty behavior. There is scarcely a page of our history that is not stained with blood.

Secondly you should be aware, for your own protection, that of all the hundreds of thousands of living creatures you will find on our planet, we humans are, beyond the slightest question, the most dangerous. It is true that there are other creatures that can inflict harm, but they do so purely in self-defense or in accordance with their own nature, to satisfy their hunger. That fearful creature known among humans as the man-eating shark, for example, knows nothing of the human emotion of viciousness. He is simply dangerous to other creatures when he is hungry. The aggression of animals, therefore, is entirely understandable. The more ominous aggression of humans has a large component of irrationality to it. You will not even be able to depend on our acting in self-interest, for if that were our only concern we would scarcely ever have initiated a war. And yet wars have not only sporadically broken out to separate long periods of peace: it has rather been the other way around. War seems to be our natural state, times of peace come about because of either emotional, physical, or economic exhaustion. Except for a few of us—who are often harshly criticized—we humans do not seem to have any natural aptitude for peace whatever, partly, perhaps, because peace is a blank, a negative, an absence of something, whereas war is concrete, definite, and active. You will find that we humans are remarkably gifted

at waging war, whereas we are clumsy amateurs when maintaining a peace.

There is a certain amount of grim humor, I suppose, in the possibility that, although we have traditionally, historically been embroiled in tribal rivalries, your unexpected coming may serve to bring us together by forcing us to realize that we are, after all, one human family. But whether this happy outcome results or not, I would suggest that you do not long turn your backs on us.

And yet—such is the mystery of life in our peculiar corner of the universe that many of us are also capable of the most exquisitely tender concern for our fellow creatures, an ability to love that extends even to the lesser animals. It is from this primary, primitive emotion, I suspect, that there comes our sometimes astonishing ability to create beauty, whether that attribute takes the form of painting, music, sculpture, poetry, drama, or any other art.

Perhaps the greatest favor you can bestow on us is to share your opinion of the purpose of life, for we have never known what it is. There is no shortage of theories, of course, but they are legion and many are mutually exclusive. It is tragic, in fact, that some of our most savage wars have been among groups that differed in regard to this one basic question. Most of us, in the total absence of an ability to explain either the physical universe or the reason for its existence in the first place, simply assume that there is some all-powerful spirit that has created literally everything. But even our most intuitive theologians have always been at a loss to explain why a benevolent deity would create poisonous snakes and spiders, deadly plants, and billions of bacteria and viruses that daily kill millions all over our planet. It follows, therefore, that if you are in a position to enlighten us on such age-old questions, we will be profoundly grateful.

Helen Gurley Brown
Editor, *Cosmopolitan*

I don't mean to be too sensible or realistic, but I doubt I would be able to get anywhere *near* the peaceful extraterrestrials who visited Earth. They would immediately be snapped up by *Hard Copy*, *Prime Time*, *20/20*, I.C.M., Creative Artists and other talent agencies, Elite and Eileen Ford and other modeling agencies, and asked to be guests of honor at a dozen fundraisers . . . how could you get to them? If I ever did, I would just say, "Hello, I'm

glad you finally got here. Are you feeling jet-lagged, dehydrated, or debilitated in any way from your long trip? It's nice to see you."

George Carlin
Comedian

"Get out! Go back! Save yourselves! You don't know what you're getting into. Prolonged contact with our species can only degrade your present standards, whatever they are."

Bernard Shaw
Principal Anchor, CNN

I would not assume the delegation could speak or understand English. Nor would I presume to be Earth's spokesman. *I would run!*

Brereton C. Jones
Governor, Kentucky

I was extremely intrigued by your question of how we would welcome an extraterrestrial delegation visiting Earth. If a member of the delegation

"PLEASE DON'T REVEAL THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT
OR YOU WILL BREAK THE
HEARTS OF THOUSANDS OF UFO BELIEVERS."
—PHILIP J. KASS, UFO DEBUNKER
AND CONTRIBUTING EDITOR OF AVIONICS IN
AVIATION WEEK MAGAZINE

stated, "Take me to your leader," I could explain that I *am* the leader of a proud group of people known as Kentuckians. I also would explain that we are a peace-loving people, and we are interested in learning about the other beings in the universe.

In addition, I would want to give them two items that I believe would best explain who we are as a country. I would present to them a copy of the U.S. Constitution, and a copy of the Bible.

The Constitution, I would tell them, is the compilation of rules that we as a people have chosen to follow.

The Bible, I would continue, is the compilation of rules that our Creator has chosen for us to follow.

I would explain that we do not always abide by all of these rules, but that we are striving to do so, and that is our ultimate goal.

Then, I would conclude by inviting them to stay awhile, and sample some of the many advantages Kentucky has to offer. They are simply out of this world!

Chuck Yeager
Brigadier General (Retired), U.S. Air Force

It would depend on who, when, and where. In my opinion one cannot predict what one would say to a bunch of extraterrestrial beings unless we knew a few things about the conditions of the meeting.

William Beecher
Director, Office of Public Affairs for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

My first instinct was a flip response: "What would you like for lunch?"

But, since you're obviously serious, I would ask how we could put together teams of outstanding specialists from a cross-section of disciplines to explore ways of trying to improve the quality of life on each planet, based on disparate lessons learned in science, medicine, history, literature, and the arts.

Harlan Ellison
Writer

If, by some frenzied desalination of our murky gene pool between then and now, exultantly ridding us of our hideous and undying xenophobia, I suggest that we go out to meet them buck naked, our hands empty and palms up, extended and open. And I suggest we say only this: "Help us. We are very young and we want to know."

Alternately, if we don't get the clean-up time, if it happens tomorrow or Thursday, then there is only one thing we should say to visiting aliens, and it is this:

"So? You had a nice trip? Are you tired, want to wash up, have a bite to eat? A nice piece of brisket, maybe; some fresh fruit? Sweetheart, you'll suck an orange, you'll feel so refreshed! Then we can chat."

Lawrence Ferlinghetti
Poet

Who could translate?

Robin Leach
Host, *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*

"Welcome—we hope you find us peaceful, too. What took you so long? We always believed you were out there! Would you like some champagne and caviar to celebrate your arrival? Then we have a million questions to ask you; especially, how long have you existed and how long have you known about us? And did you see E.T.?" 